

ABSTRACT

A protein or a variant thereof, which has a binding activity to IRR and the following characteristics and an insulin receptor-related receptor are allowed to bind in the presence of a test substance, and inhibition of the binding is measured to search for an agonist or antagonist of IRR ligand.

(a) it has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;

10 (b) it has a molecular weight measured by mass spectrometry using the Fourier transformation ion cyclotron method of about 6135, 6206, 6250 or 6321.